

Union Calendar No. 457

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2818

[Report No. 110-722]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Epilepsy Centers of Excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. LAMBORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JUNE 19, 2008

Additional sponsors: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. HARE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. FARR, Mr. HODES, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. BACA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HALL of Texas, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. JINDAL, Mr.

CARNEY, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOREN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LAMPSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SPACE, Mr. PORTER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania

JUNE 19, 2008

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 21, 2007]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Epilepsy Centers of Excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Epilepsy*
 5 *Treatment Act of 2008”.*

6 **SEC. 2. EPILEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

7 *(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EPILEPSY*
 8 *CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subchapter II of chapter 73*

1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
2 the end the following new section:

3 **“§ 7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence**

4 “(a) *DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.*—Not later than 120
5 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
6 retary shall designate an epilepsy center of excellence at
7 each of the 5 centers designated under section 7327.

8 “(b) *EXPERT CLINICAL AND RESEARCH STAFF.*—Each
9 center designated under subsection (a) shall employ such
10 expert clinical and research staff, including board certified
11 neurologists and neurosurgeons, as may be necessary to en-
12 sure that such center is capable of serving as a center of
13 excellence in research, education, and clinical care activities
14 in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, including post-
15 traumatic epilepsy.

16 “(c) *REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATION OF CENTERS.*—
17 Each center designated under subsection (a) shall function
18 as a center for—

19 “(1) research on the diagnosis, treatment, and
20 long-term effects of epilepsy, including epilepsy devel-
21 oped as a result of combat, in order to support the
22 provision of services for such diagnosis and treatment
23 in accordance with the most current information on
24 epilepsy;

1 “(2) the development of evidence-based meth-
2 odologies for treating individuals with epilepsy;

3 “(3) the continuous and consistent coordination
4 of care from the point of referral throughout the diag-
5 nostic and treatment process and ongoing follow-up
6 after return to home and community;

7 “(4) the development of a national system of co-
8 ordinated care for veterans with epilepsy, including
9 the development and maintenance of a national net-
10 work of Department health care personnel with an in-
11 terest and expertise in the care and treatment of epi-
12 lepsy and the establishment of a referral system and
13 procedure within each Veterans Integrated Service
14 Network;

15 “(5) assist in the expansion, where appropriate,
16 of the utilization of telehealth technology, including
17 exploring the use of such technology to develop, trans-
18 mit, monitor, and review neurological diagnostic tests
19 and other applicable uses of telehealth technology for
20 the diagnosis, care, and treatment of veterans with
21 epilepsy; and

22 “(6) the dissemination of educational materials
23 and research regarding diagnosis, care, and treatment
24 of epilepsy, throughout the Department.

1 “(d) *ADMINISTRATION.*—*In order to assist the Sec-*
 2 *retary in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall des-*
 3 *ignate a national coordinator for epilepsy programs who*
 4 *shall report to the official responsible for neurology at the*
 5 *Veterans Health Administration and shall—*

6 “(1) *supervise the operation of the centers des-*
 7 *ignated under this section;*

8 “(2) *coordinate and support the national net-*
 9 *work of Department health care professionals with an*
 10 *interest and expertise in the care and treatment of*
 11 *epilepsy;*

12 “(3) *ensure that the education and research mis-*
 13 *sion of such centers is being accomplished; and*

14 “(4) *conduct regular evaluations of such centers*
 15 *to ensure compliance with the requirements of this*
 16 *section.*

17 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
 18 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
 19 *\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”.*

20 “(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 21 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 22 *the item relating to section 7330 the following new item:*

“7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title
 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment

of epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.

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